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# Ex-Las Vegas councilwoman pleads not guilty in alleged charity scheme



A former Las Vegas councilwoman made her first appearance in federal court Friday after she was accused of running a fraudulent charity scheme.

By [FOX5 Staff](#)  
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LAS VEGAS, Nev. (FOX5) - A former Las Vegas councilwoman made her first appearance in federal court Friday after she was accused of [running a fraudulent charity scheme](#).

Michele Fiore pleaded not guilty in front of a federal judge Friday morning in Las Vegas. Fiore was processed by the Marshal’s office before she was released on her own recognizance, pending her trial date next month. She held a press conference after her release.

“An indictment is merely an accusation and an allegation, and these allegations are repugnant,” she said.



A former Las Vegas councilwoman made her first appearance in federal court Friday after she was accused of running a fraudulent charity scheme.

Fiore is accused of [soliciting tens of thousands of dollars](#) for a statue honoring a fallen officer. Prosecutors allege Fiore instead used those funds for personal expenses, including her daughter’s wedding. Prosecutors announced her indictment Wednesday.

Fiore is a former Las Vegas City Council Member and currently serves as Pahrump’s Justice of the Peace.

“I have served as a city council woman and a judge with integrity, honor and respect,” said Fiore after court Friday. “This indictment is a direct attack on my character. I look forward to learning the specifics of the accusations against me and addressing these horrible allegations head-on.”

Fiore is known for her colorful gun advocacy ads and has been involved in many controversies over the course of her career.

“For the past decade, I have faced relentless investigations, continuous attacks, numerous attorneys and countless negative headlines,” she said.

On Friday, the Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline said it has been made aware of the federal indictment against Judge Fiore. However, their website does not show any hearings scheduled in the matter, which would be listed if the commission decides to take public action against any judge.

When asked Friday if there’s a possibility that the judicial commission could suspend her, Fiore said, “Oh, absolutely.”

A pre-trial conference was set for September 9 with a tentative trial date of September 24.

“All will be revealed in a court of law,” said Fiore. “There will be no continuances. We want this now, and we want it over.”

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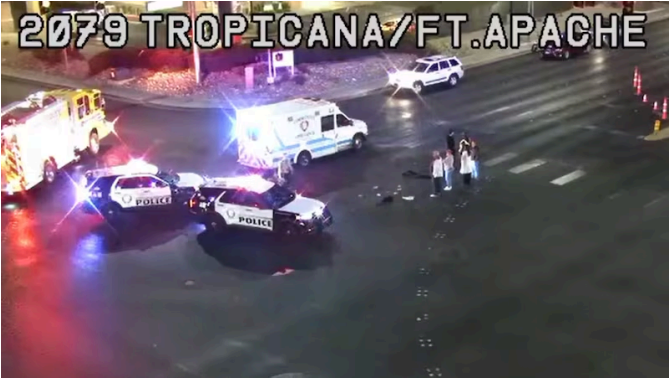
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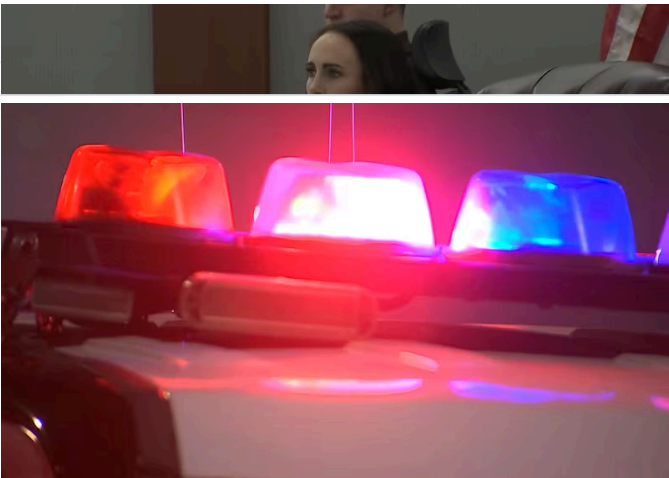


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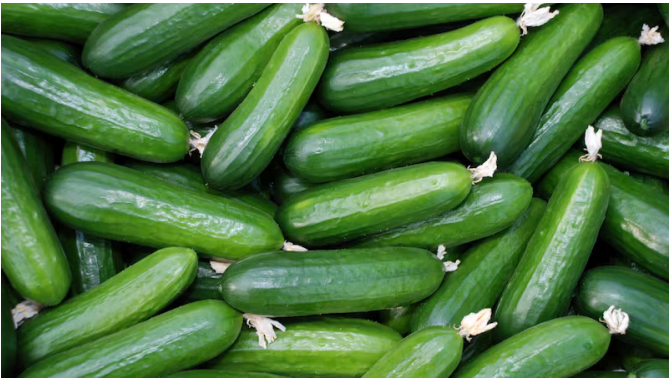
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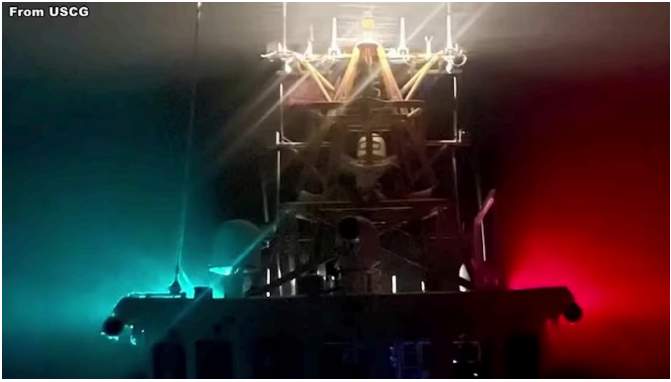
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